

2011-121 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES—Domestic Violence Probation Payments

The audit by the Bureau of State Audits will provide independently developed and verified information related to domestic violence probation fees and will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
2. For a sample of four counties, to the extent possible, obtain the following information regarding their domestic violence program's special fund for each year in the most recent four-year period:
 - (a) Total amount of fee revenue collected.
 - (b) Determine whether revenue from fees collected from individuals granted probation for crimes of domestic violence (Government Code, Section 1203.097(a)) are separately tracked for accounting purposes.
 - (c) Beginning and ending balances of the account and the fund.
 - (d) Amount of fee revenue transferred to domestic violence programs. Identify recipients of this funding that are not domestic violence programs, if any.
 - (e) The number of individuals served by the shelters receiving funding from the probation fee.
 - (f) Determine how long the counties are holding these funds before transferring them to the shelters.
 - (g) Determine if the counties' use of these funds complies with statutory requirements.
3. For a sample of courts in the counties selected, assess the extent to which each court has an adequate process for handling the domestic violence probation fees by determining the following for each year in the most recent four-year period:
 - (a) Whether the counties receive all necessary information related to the fees from the courts.
 - (b) The frequency of complete fee payments by probationers.
 - (c) The extent to which mechanisms exist to enforce payment of the fee and the effectiveness of those mechanisms.
 - (d) The extent to which the courts are completely and accurately remitting the fees paid.
 - (e) How long the courts are holding these funds before transferring them to the counties.
4. Review and assess any other issues that are significant to domestic violence probation fees.